

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

Claims 1 to 8. (Cancelled)

Claim 9. (Currently amended) An isolated DNA molecule comprising in sequence the following operably linked DNA fragments:

- (I) a plant-expressible promoter;
- (II) a DNA region, which when transcribed yields a poly-(ADP-ribose)-glycohydrolase (ParG) inhibitory RNA molecule, said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule comprising a sense nucleotide sequence of at least 40163 consecutive nucleotides of a coding region of a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 or of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 3 and said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule further comprising an antisense nucleotide sequence of at least 40163 consecutive nucleotides of said coding region, wherein said sense and antisense nucleotide sequence are capable of forming a double stranded RNA region comprising said at least 40163 consecutive nucleotides; and
- (III) a 3' end region involved in transcription termination and polyadenylation, wherein introduction of the DNA molecule, when introduced and expressed into an Arabidopsis, Brassica or tobacco plant, results in is capable of producing a plant tolerant to high light stress as compared to an Arabidopsis, Brassica, or tobacco plant that does not comprise said isolated DNA molecule.

Claim 10. (Cancelled)

Claim 11. (Currently amended) A plant cell from an Arabidopsis, Brassica or tobacco comprising the DNA molecule of any one of claims 9 or 10 wherein said DNA molecule is transcribed to yield said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule.

Claim 12. (Previously presented) An Arabidopsis, Brassica or tobacco plant comprising the plant cells of claim 11.

Claim 13. (Previously presented) A process for producing an *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica* or tobacco plant tolerant to high light stress, comprising the steps of crossing a plant of claim 12 with another plant of same species to obtain progeny plants comprising said DNA molecule, wherein said DNA molecule is transcribed to yield said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule and identifying a plant tolerant to high light stress.

Claim 14. (Previously presented) A seed and propagating material of the plant according to claim 12, wherein said seed and propagating material comprises the DNA molecule, and wherein said DNA molecule is transcribed to yield said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule.

Claim 15. (Previously presented) A plant resistant to high light stress obtained by the process of claim 16.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) A method of producing an *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica* or tobacco plant tolerant to high light stress conditions, comprising the steps of

(a) providing plant cells from an *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica* or tobacco plant with a chimeric gene to create transgenic plant cells, said chimeric gene comprising in sequence the following operably linked DNA fragments:

- (i) a plant-expressible promoter;
- (ii) a DNA region, which when transcribed yields a ParG inhibitory RNA molecule, said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule comprising a sense nucleotide sequence of at least 40 163 consecutive nucleotides of a coding region of a nucleotide sequence encoding a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID No. 1 or the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID No. 3 and said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule further comprising an antisense nucleotide sequence of at least 40 163 consecutive nucleotides of said coding region, wherein said sense and antisense nucleotide sequence are capable of forming a double stranded RNA region comprising said at least 40 163 consecutive nucleotides;
- (iii) a 3' end region involved in transcription termination and polyadenylation;

(b) regenerating a population of transgenic plant lines from said transgenic plant cell wherein said chimeric gene is transcribed to yield said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule; and

(c) identifying a plant line within said population of transgenic plant lines, which is tolerant to high light stress conditions as compared to an *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica*, or tobacco plant that does not comprise said chimeric gene.

Claims 17-21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (New) The isolated DNA molecule of claim 9, wherein said sense nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 from the nucleotide at position 973 to the nucleotide at position 1135.

Claim 23. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein said sense nucleotide sequence comprises the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 from the nucleotide at position 973 to the nucleotide at position 1135.

Claim 24. (New) A plant cell from an *Arabidopsis*, *Brassica* or tobacco comprising the DNA molecule of claim 22 wherein said DNA molecule is transcribed to yield said ParG inhibitory RNA molecule.